Channey

B. Waterworth
21. June 1843.

My dear friend

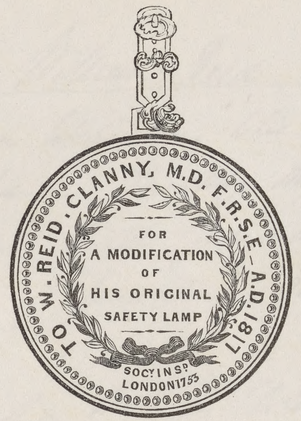
Many thanks for your kind letter, which I will keep in sight in order to follow up your wishes.

At this moment I am full of anxiety to introduce my new and perfect safety Lamps, and, if I can accomplish it, I wish to make a short tour into Belgium & Paris, taking London en route. The Co. awarded their largest Gold & Silver Medals upon one of the former you have herewith a wooden impression. Are you likely to be this way now that the summer "is comin in"? according to old English ballad, in Dr. Johnson's introduction to his Quarto Dictionary.

A young person an intimate friend who is direct air to one of the best estates in this county obtained holographs & M.M.S without number – & since that him (two years ago) I have had one lady & one Gentn solicitors – However it will be some turn next The franks were the objects but that is now plain is gone by. As soon as I see Sir C. Sharp or Lady S. I will remember your wishes – Miss Sharp married against the consent of her parents & I think resides in Bath or thereabout. No portraits of the present writer has been engraved nor likely to be so – my friends would think me non compos were I to hint at such a thing! Your best way to form a Museum will be to make tours to remarkable places & ask in the most direct manner for all duplicates.

I remain ever yours truly W Reid

DSI



DR. CLANNY.

WILLIAM REID CLANNY, M.D., a distinguished physician, was a native of the county Down, Ireland, and received his education at the Medical Schools, Edinburgh, where he graduated. He commenced his career as an assistant-surgeon in the Royal navy, and served at the battle of Copenhagen. He subsequently resided at Bishop Wearmouth, in the county of Durham, where he practised with success in his profession for upwards of forty-five years.

Dr. Clanny was a member of several learned and scientific institutions, and Physician Extraordinary to the late Duke of Sussex. Dr. Clanny's scientific talent and humane feelings were early enlisted in the cause of preventing accidents in coal-mines. In the year 1813 he constructed a lamp, which was the first attempt made that was calculated to allow the light to burn safely in an explosive atmosphere. This invention he had the courage himself to test in a coal-mine containing upwards of one hundred acres of explosive air. In reward, the Society of Arts in London gave him their gold and silver medals. This first lamp, from its cumbrous form, never came into general use; but Dr. Clanny persevered, and eventually so perfected the lamp, that it became the most complete of its kind, whether as to safety, brilliancy of light, or portability of form. A few friends, headed by the Marquis of Londonderry, the largest coal-owner in the north of England, aware of these facts, lately presented the Doctor with a piece of plate, for his eminent services in bringing into effective use this great discovery. Dr. Clanny died on the 10th inst., at his residence, Bishop Wearmouth, aged 73, much and deserved regretted.

Clanny William Reid M.D. F.R.S.E. Was
Physician Extraordinary to his late Royal Highness the Duke
of Sussex — Consulting Physician to the Newcastle
Infirmary — Knight Commander of the Sovereign order of
St John of Jerusalem Physician to the said order in
England.
Author of a Work on Cholera
Dr Clanny is the original inventor of the Safety
Lamp used in Coal mines. For his invention the
Society of Arts presented him with their Large Gold
and Silver medals.
Dr Clanny continued to give his attention to this subject
with a view to escape, but as an acknowledgment of his
services in the cause of humanity, and as a public mani-
festation of gratitude, the Marquis of Londonderry other
friends presented him with a splendid Silver Salver & purse
of gold.
Dr Clanny died January 10. 1850 Aged 75 years.

CLANNY (William, M.D.) On the MEANS of procuring a STEADY LIGHT in COAL MINES **without Danger of Explosion,** *with copperplate*, 4to. (pp. 6), *unbound*, £2, 2*s* *R.S.'s Phil. Trans.*, 1813

This is the account of the first safety lamp ever invented. 'Without any very great knowledge of chemistry he conceived the idea of insulating a candle by enclosing it in a metal lamp, with water chambers above and below it, through the lower of which air should be forced by bellows, and from the upper of which the surplus air should be expelled by the same action. This lamp was completed in 1812, and successfully tried in the Harrington Mill pit, a very fiery mine, on 16 Oct. and 20 Nov. 1815. A paper by Clanny was read before the Royal Society [*supra*]. He claimed that the gases might explode within his lamp without communicating the explosion externally . . . Sir H. Davy's first paper on the subject [*v. no.* 380] was read on 9 Nov. 1815, after seeing Clanny's experiments with his lamp.'—*D.N.B.*
See also BUDDLE, *no.* 335.

— AUTOGRAPH LETTER, signed W. R. C., to 'My dear friend,' dated B. Wearmouth, 21 June 1843, 2 *closely written pages*, 4to., *with engraving of the medal he received from the Socity of Arts*, £2, 2*s*

LONDON SOTHERAN 51

. . . 'At this moment I am full of anxiety to introduce my new and perfect Safety Lamp, and, if I can accomplish it, I wish to make a short tour into Belgium & Paris, taking London *en route*. The So. of arts bestowed their largest gold & silver Medals upon me—of the former you have herewith a wooden impression . . . No portrait of the *present writer* has been engraved nor likely to be so—My friends would think me *non compos* were I to hint at such a thing !' . . .

CLANNY, William
Inventor of the first
Safety Lamp

A.L.S. dated June 21,1843
concerning his safety
lamp

investigations on camphor, lactic acid, and suberic acid. Of special interest are the plates, which illustrate the apparatus.

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THE ORIGIN OF THE SAFETY LAMP :

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